

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10263 221911Z

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 JUSE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00

EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8739

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS PFOR FR

SUBJECT: HOLDER/KERKOW EXTRADITION CASE

REF: PARIS 09419; PARIS 10116

1. DURING A LUNCH AT MY RESIDENCE APRIL 22 FOR CENTRIST POLITICAL LEADERS, I DREW JUSTICE MINISTER LECANUET ASIDE FOR A CHAT ABOUT THE HOLDER-KERKOW EXTRADITION CASE. I TOLD HIM HOW DISAPPOINTED WE WERE THAT THE COURT RULED AGAINST EXTRADITION SINCE POLITICAL MOTIVATION WAS CLEARLY NOT DEMONSTRATED IN THE EVIDENCE. I TOLD LECANUET THAT ANYONE CAN STEAL MONEY AND LATER SAY HE DID IT FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES BY CLAIMING A DESIRE TO DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS TO POLITICAL GROUPS. I ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE ROLE OF THE AVOCAT GENERAL WHO ADVISED THE COURT TO RULE AGAINST EXTRADITION WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES. FINALLY, I ARGUED THAT IT IS IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO STAMP OUT HIJACKING IN VIEW OF THE FEAR THIS CRIME STRIKES IN THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS OF TRAVELERS.

2. LECANUET SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT OF VIEW. HE AGREED THAT THE AVOCAT GENERAL HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL. HE SAID THAT THE GOF IS NOW FACED WITH A DIFFICULT CHOICE --EITHER TRY HOLDER/KERKOW UNDER FRENCH LAW FOR A CRIME THEY COMMITTED IN THE UNITED STATES, OR EXPEL THEM FROM
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PAGE 02 PARIS 10263 221911Z

FRANCE. AS FAR AS EXTRADITION TO THE U.S. IS CONCERNED,

LECANUET SAID GOF HANDS ARE TIED BY COURT'S RULING,
WHICH HE DEEPLY REGRETTEED. HE SAID HE WISHED HE COULD
HAND THE HIJACKERS BACK TO US. IN ANY EVENT, HE WOULD
REVIEW THE CASE CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF WHAT I HAD TOLD
HIM, AND WOULD BE IN CONTACT ABOUT DEVELOPING MEANS TO
COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY ON THE HIJACKING MENACE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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